

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 /063 W

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P R 200831Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3254

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH MORG MPOL MILI

SUBJ: FIELD ARMIES TOLD TO ACCEPT PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERSHIP

SUMMARY. THERE IS A POSSIBLE NEW DIRECTIVE ON CIVILIAN AUTHORITY OVER THE MILITARY WHICH, IF CARRIED OUT, COULD SIGNIFICANTLY FURTHER WEAKEN REGIONAL COMMANDERS. SUCH A MOVE WOULD LIKELY BE PART OF A MAJOR READJUSTMENT OF THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ARRANGEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. A CIRCULAR ISSUED RECENTLY BY THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE TSINAN MILITARY REGION (MR) STATES: "IN CARRYING OUT WORK IN THE VARIOUS LOCALITIES, ALL FIELD ARMIER MUST CONSCIOUSLY ACCEPT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PROVINCIAL CCP COMMITTEE.... POERIODICALLY SENDING WORK REPORTS TO THEM AND REQUESTING INSTRUCTION FROM THEM" SHANGUNG BROADCAST DEEMBER 16). IN ADDITION, PLA PARTY COMMITTEES ARE INSTRUCTED TO "HELP THE COMMANDERS" IN FURTHER STRENGTHENING THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS OF "OBEYING THE LOCAL PARTY AND REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES". THE DIRECTIVE STATES

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THAT THE EXISTING MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND IS TO CONTINUE

FOR MILITARY DUTIES.

2. COMMENT. FIELD ARMIES ARE NORMALLY SUBORDINATE TO THE MR COMMANDERS IN BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY WORK. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, AT LEAST IN RECENT YEARS, THAT FIELD ARMIES HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY TOLD TO TAKE THEIR INSTRUCTIONS FROM PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP IN CARRYING OUT ALL BUT STRICTLY MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS. (THE NOVEMBER 13 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE ON THE PLA FORESHADOWED THIS BY STATING GENERALLY THAT, IN LOCAL AREAS, THE MILITARY MUST OBEY THE CENTRALIZED LEADERSHIP OF THE LOCAL PARTY COMMITTEE-- HONG KONG 12550.) THE MAIN THRUST OF THIS DIRECTIVE, IF SUCCESSFULLY CARRIES OUT, WOULD BE TO WEAKEN THE AUTHORITY OF THE MR COMMANDERS.. A LONG SOUGHT-AFTER PARTY GOAL-- AS IT STRENGTHENED THE ROLE OF THE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES. THIS, IN TURN, WOULD LIKELY BE A PARTY OF A MAJOR READJUSTMENT OF THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK13764
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740370-0732
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741220/aaaaaqle.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIELD ARMIES TOLD TO ACCEPT PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERSHIP SUMMARY. THERE IS A POSSIBLE NEW DIRECTIVE ON CIVILIAN AUTHORITY
TAGS: PINT, MORG, MPOL, MILI, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005